IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

     Guido KERSTEN et al.

<div style="text-align:right">Group Art Unit: Unknown</div>

Serial Number: Not Yet Assigned

<div style="text-align:right">Examiner: Unknown</div>

Filed: herewith

For: **BANK NOTE PROCESSING MACHINE AND METHOD FOR OPERATING BANK NOTE PROCESSING MACHINE**
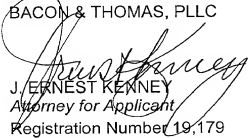
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

     Before examination on the merits of the above-identified application, please amend the claims as shown on the APPENDIX OF AMENDED CLAIMS appended hereto. The claims are shown in clean form on the appendix and a separate APPENDIX OF MARKED UP CLAIMS is appended hereto to show all of the changes made to the original claims.

     Examination of the application as amended is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1(Amended). A bank note processing machine comprising:

sensors (5), a transport system (6), an input/output device (7), and

a control device (3) with an associated memory (4, 4a) which controls the elements of the bank note processing machine by means of software and/or data stored in the memory (4, 4a), and

an interface (1) which makes it possible to couple memory systems (2) of different kinds to the bank note processing machine in order to alter, supplement or replace the software and/or data stored in the memory (4, 4a).

2(Amended). The bank note processing machine according to claim 1, wherein that the interface (1) is a standardized interface, in particular according to PCMCIA.

3(Amended). The bank note processing machine according to claim 1, wherein the memory system (2) has a drive (2b) and a storage medium (2a) which are suitable in particular for optical and/or magnetic recording.

4(Amended). The bank note processing machine according to claim 1, wherein the memory (4, 4a) has a nonvolatile area (4), and after coupling of the memory system (2) to the interface (1) the software and/or data stored in the memory system (2) are stored in the nonvolatile area (4).

5(Amended). The bank note processing machine according claim 1, wherein that the memory (4, 4a) has a volatile area (4a), and after coupling of the memory system (2) to the interface (1) the software and/or data stored in the memory system (2) are stored in the volatile area (4a).

6(Amended). The bank note processing machine according to claim 1, wherein data obtained in the bank note processing machine during operation are stored in the memory system (2).

7(Amended). The bank note processing machine according to claim 1, wherein the software and/or data stored in the memory system (2) are stored in encoded form, and the controller (3) is set up to decode the encoded software and/or data.

8(Amended). A method for operating a bank note processing machine whose elements and functions are controlled by means of data and/or software stored in the bank note processing machine, comprising altering, supplementing or replacing the data and software via a universal data link to enable the connection of a plurality of different memory systems to the bank note processing machine.

9(Amended). The method for operating a bank note processing machine according to claim 8, including lastingly storing the data and/or software of the memory system in the bank note processing machine upon connection of a memory system.

10(Amended). The method for operating a bank note processing machine according to claim 8, wherein the data and/or software of the memory system are used for controlling the bank note processing machine for the duration of connection of a memory system.

11(Amended). The method for operating a bank note processing machine according to claim 10, including using the data and/or software of the memory system to control a test mode for the bank note processing machine.

12(Amended). The method for operating a bank note processing machine according to claim 8, including using the data and/or software of the memory system to control a user-specific mode for the bank note processing machine.

13(Amended). The method for operating a bank note processing machine according to claim 8, including storing data obtained in the bank note processing machine during operation in the memory system.

14(Amended). The method for operating a bank note processing machine according to claim 8, including storing in encoded form the software and/or data stored in the memory system, and using the controller (3) to decode the encoded software and/or data.

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APPENDIX OF MARKED UP CLAIMS

1(Amended).   A bank note processing machine [having the following elements] comprising:

sensors (5), a transport system (6), an input/output device (7), and

a control device (3) with an associated memory (4, 4a) which controls the elements of the bank note processing machine by means of software and/or data stored in the memory (4, 4a), and

[characterized in that the bank note processing machine has] an interface (1) which makes it possible to couple memory systems (2) of different kinds to the bank note processing machine in order to alter, supplement or replace the software and/or data stored in the memory (4, 4a).

2(Amended). [A] The bank note processing machine according to claim 1, [characterized in] wherein that the interface (1) is a standardized interface, in particular according to PCMCIA.

3(Amended). [A] The bank note processing machine according to claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in that] wherein the memory system (2) has a drive (2b) and a storage medium (2a) which are suitable in particular for optical and/or magnetic recording.

4(Amended). [A] The bank note processing machine according to [any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the memory (4, 4a) has a nonvolatile area (4), and after coupling of the memory system (2) to the interface (1) the software and/or data stored in the memory system (2) are stored in the nonvolatile area (4).

5(Amended). [A] The bank note processing machine according [to any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in] claim 1, wherein that the memory (4, 4a) has a volatile area (4a), and after coupling of the memory system (2) to the interface (1) the software and/or data stored in the memory system (2) are stored in the volatile area (4a).

6(Amended). [A] The bank note processing machine according to [any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein data obtained in the bank note processing machine during operation are stored in the memory system (2).

7(Amended). [A] The bank note processing machine according to [any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the software and/or data stored in the memory system (2) are stored in encoded form, and the controller (3) is set up to decode the encoded software and/or data.

8(Amended). A method for operating a bank note processing machine whose elements and functions are controlled by means of data and/or software stored in the bank note processing machine, [characterized in that] comprising altering, supplementing or replacing the data and software [can be altered, supplemented or replaced] via a universal data link [which allows] to enable the connection of a plurality of different memory systems to the bank note processing machine.

9(Amended). [A] The method for operating a bank note processing machine according to claim 8, [characterized in that] including lastingly storing the data and/or software of the memory system [are lastingly stored] in the bank note processing machine upon connection of a memory system.

10(Amended). [A] The method for operating a bank note processing machine according to claim 8, [characterized in that] wherein the data and/or software of the memory system are used for controlling the bank note processing machine for the duration of connection of a memory system.

11(Amended). [A] The method for operating a bank note processing machine according to claim 10, [characterized in that] including using the data and/or software of the memory system to control a test mode for the bank note processing machine.

12(Amended). [A] The method for operating a bank note processing machine according to [any of claims 8 to 10, characterized in that] claim 8, including using the data and/or software of the memory system to control a user-specific mode for the bank note processing machine.

13(Amended). [A] The method for operating a bank note processing machine according to [any of claims 8 to 12, characterized in that] claim 8, including storing data obtained in the bank note processing machine during operation [are stored] in the memory system.

14(Amended). [A] The method for operating a bank note processing machine according to [any of claims 8 to 13, characterized in that] claim 8, including storing in encoded form the software and/or data stored in the memory system [are stored in encoded form], and using the controller (3) [decodes] to decode the encoded software and/or data.